

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CEFTA Deputy Ministers Meeting 27 May 2009, Budva

The Deputy Ministers Meeting was held in Budva (Montenegro) on 27 May 2009.

In his welcoming speech, the Chair Mr. Goran Scepanovic, Deputy Minister for Economic Development of Montenegro, stressed that the implementation of CEFTA Agreement represents just a start in the creation of a better business environment through achieving of the CEFTA goals.

The Chair reported on the progress in the liberalisation of agricultural trade since January 2009 and asked Parties to provide him with the most recent developments since the last Sub-committee meeting on Agriculture and SPS held in Podgorica, in April 2009.

- Representatives of Albania reported that they completed the negotiations and achieved the full liberalisation with the following Parties: Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia.
- Croatia liberalised the whole agricultural trade with Albania, Moldova and Kosovo*, substantial liberalisation with Montenegro and Serbia, while with Macedonia quota regime (for two product groups) is maintained.
- Macedonia accomplished the full liberalisation with Albania, while retained quota regime with Croatia (two product groups) and Moldova (one product group).
- Moldova liberalised its agricultural trade with Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, while with Macedonia quota regime for one product group is in place.
- Montenegro has agreed on full liberalisation in agriculture with Albania and Moldova, while with Croatia still has limited number of tariffs in place.
- Serbia liberalised fully agricultural trade with Albania and Moldova, and achieved significant liberalisation with Croatia.

The Chair presented the priorities of Montenegrin chairmanship set out in January 2009 and took a stock for five months period in the area of SPS, Regarding the possibilities for technical harmonisation and the conclusion of MRAs in the area of TBT among the CEFTA Parties, In the area of diagonal cumulation, the most important issues related to the proof of origin were discussed at the second Sub-committee meeting held in Belgrade in May, contacts with EUROSTAT in order to identify possible opportunities for co-operation in the area of exchange of external trade data.

The conclusions from the Regional Conference on NTBs (held on 25 and 26 May in Budva) were presented by Ms. Britta Magraff (GTZ Project) and Ms. Mary O'Mahony (OECD) who are in charge of two respective regional projects on NTBs in the CEFTA Parties.

During the meeting also were discussed priorities of the Serbian Chairmanship for 2010, the main focus of the Serbian chairing would include opening of the services market, complementing the trade liberalisation gains with investments opportunities, opening of the public procurement market (in line with the Article 35) and implementation of the competition rules stated in the Articles 19, 20 and 21 of the CEFTA Agreement.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence